(d) The amount of Rs. 3877 crores has been allocated for seismic surveys and exploratory drilling during 8th Plan period.

Allotment of L.P.G. Connections in Rural Areas

1478. SHRI RAMJI LAL : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a number of persons have registered their names for the allotment of L.P.G. connections in rural areas;

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that such connections have not been issued to the rural people as the gas agencies exist in cities/big towns of the country;

(c) if so, what would be the fate of these registered persons;

(d) whether Government propose to open such agencies in rural areas to issue connections to the people as rural people are also need of gas connections like city people; and

(e) what steps are being taken by Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : (a) to (c) Registration of persons for LPG connections is done with the distributors operating in areas having population of 20,000 and above. Only persons registered get their connections on maturity of their turn.

(d) and (e) : As per present policy new LPG agencies are opened in a phased manner at different locations having a population of 20,000 and above depending upon the economic viability of distributorship and availability of product, etc.

Zero Gas Flaring Project of Bombay High

1479. SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) what are the names of the foreign funding agencies in Zero gas flaring projects of Bombay High;

(b) what was the projected availability of gas when these projects were submitted for funding;

(c) whether is any reduction in the projeted availability of gas; and

(d) if so the reasons thereof and how is the shortfall proposed to be met ?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : (a) The Gas Flaring Reduction Project is to be funded by the World Bank, the ADB, Ex'm Bank of Japan, and be export credits.

(b) and (d) While the projections adopted in 1990 for planning purposes (66.67 MMSCMD by 1996-97 was slightly higher than the final assessment of established reserves made in January, 1992 (62.50 MMSCMD by 1996-97), it is expected that commitments made will be met.

Supply of Gas to Consumers of Bombay through Pipelines

1480. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have decided to supply gas to consumers in Bombay through pipelines;

(b) if so, the details of the highlights of the project coverage areas and number of consumers, type of consumers to be benefited-domestic-commercial vehicles etc.;

(c) what is the present waiting list for cooking gas in greater Bombay and total persons to be covered under the scheme alongwith the details of the rehabilitate plan of the present affected distributors and their employees;

(d) what is the present bottling capacity in Greater Bombay and the number of employees engaged and whether there is a proposal to shift bottling plant from Bombay; and

(e) if so, how the employees presently engaged by the bottling plants would be rehabilitated ?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : (a) Allocation of natural gas for such a purpose has been made to the Government of Maharashtra.

(b) The proposed project envisages supplying gas to 600,000 domestic, 4500 commercial and 145 industrial consumers in Greater Bombay.